Chetak Helicopter crash near Vaishno Devi

4432. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Court of inquiry to investigate all aspects of the Chetak helicopter crash near Vaishno Devi Shrine on 30th January, 2001 has given its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, by when its report is expected?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Every effort is being made to progress the inquiry and finalise it early.

Overpricing of Hawks

4433. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Hindujas paid overpriced $ 1bn. Hawks: Observer", published in the Asian Age on the 27th March, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the substance of the news-report has been or is proposed to be inquired into and the persons responsible for the deal booked;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what further steps are proposed to be taken to curb corruption at high places in the defence purchase sector?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No contract for the AJT has been finalized.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.